

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 30, 2004. Claims 1-16, 20-29 and 34-37, 41, and 43, are presented for examination. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, Claim 43 has been amended so that it no longer depends from Claim 31, and Claims 23 and 37 have been amended to correct grammatical errors. Claims 16 and 29 have been amended to incorporate limitations of Claims 19 and 33, respectively. Claims 1, 13, 16, and 29, are in independent form. Claims 17-19, 31-33 and 57-61 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging that Claims 1-15 are allowable and that Claims 19, 22-28, 33, 36, 37, 41, 59 and 60 (which were objected to for being dependent on a rejected base claim) contain patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have now incorporated the patentable subject matter of Claims 19 and 33 into amended independent Claim 16 and independent Claim 29, respectively. Applicants now believe amended Claims 16 and 29 to be patentable and in condition for allowance.

Claims 16-18, 20, 21, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 43, 57, 58 and 61 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 5,382,867 (*Maruo et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent 5,773,921 (*Keesmann et al.*).

The cancellation of Claims 17, 18, 31, 32, 57, 58 and 61 render their rejection moot.

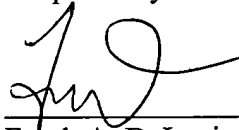
As noted above, independent Claim 16 and independent Claim 29 have been amended to incorporate the patentable subject matter of cancelled Claims 19 and 33. Therefore, Claims 16 and 29 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable, at least for the reason that each depends from a patentable base claim.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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